

there; tell your non-ham friends about it too! □

FCC ON RFI

The FCC has received heavy response on its Notice of Inquiry on the RFI issue (see QST, February and March, 1979) and as a result is considering forming an advisory committee on the subject. Al Paul, a senior member of the technical standards branch said, "As much as we dislike the idea of another committee, we feel an advisory committee is in order because of the broad implications of the problem we're dealing with, and because we must act in the public interest."

Interference complaints have doubled since the early 70's, due largely to increased use of Citizens band and despite toughened transmitter standards. The response to the Notice of Inquiry indicates the amount of interest in the subject from hams, standards organizations such as EIA and ANSI, as well as other individuals and groups. Members of Congress and the FCC are trying to determine whether or not the FCC in fact has the authority to set receiver standards, despite having set standards for UHF television receivers in 1964.

The recent efforts in Congress to change the Communications Act of 1934 were also partially brought about to control RFI, but all are currently stuck in committees.

Another problem is the difficulty of measuring the performance of RFI preventive features. At present there is no single recognized method of measurement.

It would appear that the problems of RFI will be with us for a while. □

Don't forget your dues for 1979/1980! Send your \$8.00 (\$2.00 for family members) to Jim Hatherley, WA1TBY, 46 Hobson Street, Brighton, Mass. 02135. □

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

Special Natick Mall meeting on December 6th at 7:30. See you at the Natick Mall, Dec. 10-16



MESSAGE FAIR

Our biggest event of the year is once again upon us, namely the week long Natick Mall Message Fair. The dates this year are Monday, December 10 through Sunday, December 16, with set up on Sunday, December 9. This event as always will take a full out effort by everyone in the club since an event of this magnitude requires a large number of people to be successful. Thus, if you have not yet signed up for a night or more at the mall, contact operating activities chairman Joe McGrath at 435-6893 and let him know when you will be available. Even if you are not sure in advance when you can come, drop by the mall on one or more days. We will be there on the weekdays from about 5:30 to 10:00 pm, Saturday all day and Sunday afternoon with take down immediately after.

This year in addition to the sending of messages we will have more displays than in previous years. The displays will include slides and movies of the club and other Amateur activities, plus demonstrations of the OSCAR satellites and the use of microcomputers in Amateur Radio. Of course, many handouts explaining all aspects of Amateur Radio will be available as usual. Hope to see you

SIGNAL 99

by W2KGV, from the August 1978
ARPSC-LO Bulletin

A very valuable and necessary procedure has been proposed by the writer and adopted by the Westchester (New York) Emergency Communications Association (WR2AIS--WB2VUK president) and the Office of Disaster and Emergency Services of the county (W20C, Chief Radio Officer).

Picture an Amateur mobile unit coming upon what seems to be an emergency on a lonely road, late at night. Here is a chance, the operator thinks, to perform the public service that ham radio is so well known for, by using his rig and the local repeater and even perhaps the autopatch. The ham stops, gets out of the car to see if help can be given. At this point, imagine the worst....

But--before getting out of the car, and without shutting off his motor, the ham has made a Signal 99 call on the mobile rig. Why? Because a Signal 99 is to alert any and all listeners that the issuing party is about to investigate a situation in an unprotected environment and would like a backup in case the situation warrants it. After getting a response to the Signal 99, the mobile operator should give:

1. Location called from
2. License number and description of car and/or the persons in trouble
3. The apparent emergency

The responding station should acknowledge and remind the mobile station to report back in no more than five minutes. Then and only then should the mobile operator get out of his car, shut off the motor and take his key with him. The mobile operator must make sure that he returns to his rig and calls in within five minutes, otherwise the acknowledging station should call the authorities to proceed to the location to see if everything is in order. It is firmly believed that this Signal 99 procedure should be adopted throughout the Amateur fraternity in the U.S. and Canada.

Autopatch is great, but you don't

have the personal touch of having someone standing by and listening, knowing where you are. Of course, if you can't raise anyone on the repeater or direct and you do have autopatch, by all means use it to call authorities and give details--again, before you leave your car. □

Tnx WA1ZLQ for the above.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Nr 109 dated November 1, 1979:

The newly revised ARRL Numbered Radiogram List, CD-3, is now available. These standard message texts are designed to promote brevity and efficiency in traffic handling. In addition on the reverse side of this form are ARRL Recommended Message Precedences, including the new designation WELFARE, abbreviated W on CW/RTTY, which replaces the INQUIRY precedence. For your copy of the updated list, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, Conn. 06111 and request a copy of CD-3. The revised list becomes effective January 1, 1980. ARRL radiogram texts will also appear in the December issue of QST.

Nr 110 dated November 1, 1979:

FCC has issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding standard FM on six meters. PR Docket 79-285 proposed F3 emission from 50.1 to 54 MHz. The present rules permit F3 from 52.5 to 54 MHz. Comments are due at the Commission by December 10, 1979. Members may request copies of the Notice by sending an SASE to Membership Services Dept., ARRL Hq. Details in December QST Happenings. □

ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE

Exclusive-Kenwood TS-520S transceiver in mint condition with matching Kenwood speaker, MC-50 microphone, electronic hand keyer model HK5A all in mint condition, only \$600. Call Scott Levin, WB1FGI, at 358-7234. □

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: NELS J. ANDERSON, K1UR
32 WESTGATE ROAD, APT. 6
CHESTNUT HILL, MASS. 02167

THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, P.C.C. RULES & REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES (TYPEWRITTEN IF POSSIBLE) TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OR TO THE CLUB ADDRESS.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS \$5. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS FROM SEPTEMBER 1 - JUNE 30. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
324 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181



Minutes

Meeting of November 1, 1979:

The meeting was opened at 7:50 pm by President Bill Downing, WA1PQY.

The future of the Intermediate Building was discussed. Due to its age and inefficiency of heating, the future of the building is in question, which would of course affect the club's future as well. At the present time nothing has been decided by the town.

It was announced that the Wellesley Townsman would be doing an article on the club in the near future.

Plans for the upcoming Natick Mall message fair were discussed.

The state of the repeater was also discussed and despite reports to the contrary, the hospital has no major complaints about the installation. However, they have told us that the roof will be repaired in the near future and we might want to put up a better antenna installation at that time. This was discussed with no action.

The meeting was closed at 8:25 pm. □

Executive Minutes

Meeting of November 7, 1979:

The meeting was opened at 7:50 pm by President Bill Downing, WA1PQY.

The Townsman article and the things we would like to see in it were discussed.

The arrangements for the Natick Mall antennas, demonstrations, etc. were discussed at length.

Finally, the repeater tower was discussed. Since the hospital has informed us that after the present repairs to the roof are done it is unlikely we would be allowed to change the setup, it was decided to bring up the installation of a permanent tower for the repeater at the next regular business meeting.

The meeting was closed at 10:00 pm. □

hr REPORT

The U.S. Amateur population dropped by more than 2000 in September, with Novices again leading the decline. In the month ending on September 30 we lost 1693 Novices, from 64,030 to 62,337, while Techs dropped from 69,492 to 69,291 and Generals from 122,453 to 122,233. Advanced licensees also declined slightly from 84,707 to 84,605; Extras posted the only gain, to 23,890 from 23,811. □

Hereabouts...

Ted Levin, WB1CFC, sends his regards to the club members from Sunrise, Florida, his current home, and reports that he hopes to be on the air from his condominium shortly.

Rick Beebe, K1PAD, the ARRL Section Communications Manager for Eastern Massachusetts will address the Middlesex ARC on November 29th. Time will be 7:30 pm at the West Newton Police Station. □

CHUCKLE KORNLER

The Ten Commandments of Electrical Safety

Author unknown, via K1IR

1. Beware of the lightning that lurketh in a charged condenser lest it cause thee to bounce upon thy buttocks in a most embarrassing manner.
2. Cause thou the switch that supplieth large quantities of juice to be opened and thusly tagged that thy days may be long in this earthly vale of tears.
3. Prove to thyself that all circuits that radiateth, and upon which thee worketh, are grounded and thusly tagged lest they lift thee to a radio frequency potential and cause thee to make like a radiator, too.
4. Tarry thou not amongst these fools that engage in intentional shocks for they are not long for this world and are surely unbelievers.
5. Take care that thou useth the proper method when thou takest the measures of high voltage circuits that thou dost not incinerate both thee and thy test meter, for verily, though thou has no Company Property Number and can be easily surveried, the Test Meter has one and as a consequence bringeth much woe unto a Purchasing Agent.
6. Take care that thou tamperest not with Interlocks and Safety Devices for this incurreth the wrath of the Chief Electrician and bringeth the fury of the Engineers on his head.
7. Work thou not on energized equipment for if thou doest so, thy friends will surely be buying beers for thy widow and consoling her in ways not generally acceptable to thee.
8. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, never service equipment alone, for electrical cooking is a slow process and thou might sizzle in thy own fat upon a hot circuit for hours on end before thy maker sees fit to end thy misery and drag thee into his fold.
9. Trifle thee not with radioactive tubes and substances lest thou commence to glow in the dark like a lightning bug and thy wife be frust-

rated and have not further use for thee except for thy wages.
10. Commit thou to memory all the works of the prophets which are written down in thy Bible which is the National Electrical Code and giveth out with the straight dope and consoleth thee when thou hast suffered a ream job by the Chief Electrician. □

TRAFFIC TALK

by Jim Hatherley, WA1TBY

If any of the club members are ARRL appointees such as Official Observers (OO), OTS (Official Traffic Station), OBS (Official Bulletin Station), etc., then you should file a monthly report to your Section Communications Manager, K1PAD, at 82 Wyman Road, Billerica, Mass. 01821.

For those members who make monthly station activity reports to the Section Communications Manager, you may or may not know that the format of reporting your activities has been changed. The following is the correct format:

Category	Points Each	Max. Pts.
1. QNI CW nets	1	30
2. QNI phone nets	1	30
3. NCS CW nets	3	12
4. NCS phone nets	3	12
5. Performing pre-assigned NTS liaison	3	12
6. Delivering a formal piece of traffic to a third party	1	--
7. Handling (formal or informal) emergency traffic	5	--
8. Serving as Net Manager or Emergency Coordinator for the month	5	5
9. Participating in a public service event	5	5

To qualify for the Public Service Honor Role (PSHR) the total points are 60 for General Class and up, and for Novice and Technician classes the figure is 40 points.

This is it fellows, make a copy and put it aside for future reference. □

"Timeout!"

By Mike Adlerstein, K1FB

The past month, during a visit to Britain, I met several persons planning to attend the all important WARC meeting in Geneva. Oceans of ink have already been devoted to the importance of this conference to the future of Amateur Radio. Most of the attention has been focused upon our future frequency allocations. This is entirely justified. But now, a new issue has surfaced which is more than just a squabble over a few kHz; it is an issue which could have a profound impact on the calibre of future Amateur Radio operations and the nature of the Amateur Radio service worldwide.

I am referring to Article 41 of the ITU Regulations for Radio wherein there is a requirement for Morse code proficiency for operators licensed below 144 MHz. Strangely, after extensive canvassing which occurred a few years ago, our own Federal Communications Commission is proposing the ITU drop this requirement. This, in spite of the fact that the result of the survey was in favor of keeping the code requirement. A cynic would say that the FCC is responding to pressure to rejuvenate a sagging CB marketplace. To me, the reasoning which lead to the FCC proposal is far from clear.

Firstly CW is recognized as still being the most effective means of communications under adverse, perhaps emergency, conditions requiring a minimum of equipment. The effectiveness and reliability stems purely from operator skill.

Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, the mastery of Morse code communications serves as a screen for those achieving an operators license. It is the only measure we have of dedication of the licensee to operating skill and his (or her) willingness to dedicate time and effort to development of those skills. Whether the CW mode is relevant to the application is beside the point. This is just the same as theory requirements on the written test; in this day of sophisticated ready made equipment, how many of us

will ever have to neutralize a final amplifier, yet we must know why it is important. Is relevance an argument for us to drop the written test next? What would result would be Citizens Band!

In short, both code and theory are part of our standards. Lowering them simply to make Amateur Radio licenses more accessible will accomplish little other than making such a license less meaningful and less desirable.

The time to make your opinion known on this subject is now. Write to Carlos Roberts, Chief Personal Radio Bureau, FCC, Washington, DC 20554. Also send a copy to the Office of International Telecommunications Policy, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520. □

Although the FCC proposal to eliminate the code requirement completely was defeated in committee at WARC (although the frequency above which code is not required was lowered from 144 to 50 MHz) this decision is still not final until the end of WARC. In addition, since the FCC seems very interested in a no code license and could, even with the regulations unchanged, allow such a license on the VHF bands, it is important that you let your feelings be known. Can you imagine 2 meters with thousands of new no code licensees who have not met the standards of older licensees? Think about it. □

CODE ODE

by Troy Weidenheimer, WØROF

It's more than dots and dashes
It's a place.
A sanctuary for those who've learned
To love the mysterious magic of
Thoughts arriving in mile-long strings
On roads of ether or wire.

Even more, it's peace,
A shield from the disordered sounds
Of traffic, angry people,
And industrial clutter clatter,
Within its warm mantle
We find soothing respite.

And the patter of bright ideas it is,

The sharp focusing of other's thoughts
From miles beyond our vision's range,
As in a dream we sit so still.
It floats in our ears and stirs our
minds
With concern, remembrance, speculation
And mirth.

And code is music,
From sounders and speakers it dances
In the shack to each sender's inner
clock,
And comes butter-smooth, deliciously
swinging,
Or choppy stacatto from a "fist"
praising definition,
Or perfectly metered, flowing
exquisitely
From the gentle hand of an artist.

A place,
And peace,
Intelligence and
Music.
Code is more than dots and dashes.

From 220 Notes, Metropolitan Chicago
area Two-Twenty MHz repeater operation
news, W9IWI, editor. □

hr REPORT

By the time you read this, WARC 79 is scheduled to be over, though at the present time they are running somewhat behind and are holding six day a week sessions, plus evenings, in an effort to conclude on time. The outlook from the Amateurs point of view is good, with apparently very few and minor changes to the current major Amateur bands. The proposed new bands at 10, 18, and 24 MHz have not as yet been decided on as yet, but are receiving very strong support from a number of countries besides the U.S. We should know shortly the final results of this most important conference.

New Amateur/CB services proposed earlier this year by CB Magazine and the Washington State CB Radio Association are still buried somewhere within the FCC, despite a June FCC news release promise that a proposal

for such a new service would be presented to the Commissioners for action by early September. Introduction of such a proposal during WARC would seem ill advised, with a probable negative impact on the U.S. position there. A "citizens" radio service would find little welcome in the crowded HF bands while lowering Amateur Radio standards to make it an "Amateur" service just after a WARC committee reaffirmed the Article 41 CW requirement as an international standard for Amateurs would be equally undiplomatic.

hr Report, October 26, 1979

Any Amateur license modification will now require filing of a Form 610 or 610B, the FCC has decided. Previously, a change in mailing address (only) simply required a note to Gettysburg, though a station location change did require a Form 610 or 610B. For most Amateurs, mailing address and station location are the same. However most Amateurs who have moved have not been submitting 610s, thus requiring a response from Gettysburg before their requests for modification could be processed. Modified licenses now will be extended for a full 5-year term effective on the modification date; changes effective November 12.

HB9RA, Werner Bircher, was elected mayor of Berne, Switzerland, October 21. Bircher, 51, has been in city government since 1975.

hr Report, November 2, 1979

The Communications Act of 1934 with all current revisions and amendments, is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Stock number is 004-000-00366-7 and the post-paid price is \$5.00 per copy.

hr Report, November 2, 1979

Reciprocal "no permit" CB licensing with Canada took a giant step toward reality recently when the FCC Commissioners authorized the staff to forward such a proposal to the Department of State. Under such an agreement, the governments of the two countries would honor each other's licenses. With for

mal action now proceeding on reciprocal recognition for Cbers, it's very likely that a similar relaxation for the Amateur Service will also come under consideration in the future.

hr Report, November 9, 1979

Revised launch plans have been announced for the AMSAT Phase III-A satellite. The launch now is scheduled for the middle of May, 1980, probably around May 20.

hr Report, November 9, 1979

NASA has chosen Swan equipment for use in Space Shuttle communications, making the Astro 150 HF transceiver the first all solid-state synthesized rig to be used in the NASA communications network. The Astro 150 system consists of three rack-mounted modules containing an Astro 150, power supply, phone patch, 2000A watt meter, and 1500Z linear amplifier. NASA says the main consideration in moving to solid-state gear was reliability, since the HF equipment is an emergency backup system.

hr Report, November 16, 1979

Channel 68, WQTV is running a segment about Amateur Radio during their "Boston Live" program which is shown nightly unscrambled from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. The segment, coordinated by Rich Zach, WA1VQZ, will appear every other Wednesday at about 6:30 during the show. The schedule of shows is tentatively as follows:

Dec. 5: "DX and Foreign Hams"
Dec. 19: possibly an ATV segment
Jan. 2: "Repeaters"
Jan. 16: "Handicapped Hams"
Jan. 30: "The ARRL and You"

Other regular features will include a DX report and a calendar of ham events. □

It Seems to Me...

Your editor is still looking for articles from the club members. We're all lucky to have a couple of steady contributors to the "Spark Gap" each

month, but it's not fair to rely on such a small group. Doesn't anyone else out there know how to write? If you can't write an article, how about a gripe? Surely everything the club does or that happens in the world of Amateur Radio can't meet with your agreement. How about some news items? Or some activity you were involved in lately (Did you get a new rig lately? Do you like it? Did you work someone especially interesting last weekend? Did you upgrade recently? You deserve to be congratulated in print if you did!) How about it? I can't believe that out of some 150 members of an Amateur Radio club, no one ever does anything involving Amateur Radio! Share your experiences! Anything you have is welcome by your editor, Nels Anderson, K1UR, 32 Westgate Road, Apt. 6, Chestnut Hill, Mass. 02167 or by phone at 323-5029. □

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MESSAGE FAIR

by Joe McGrath, WA1JIR

Again the Holiday season is upon us and soon we'll be embarking on our annual expedition to the Natick Mall. As you may already know, the dates slated this year are December 9-16, that's Sunday through Sunday. We'll be setting up on the 9th at 10:00 am and start operations the 10th at 5:30 pm. Tear down will be on the following Sunday.

Needless to say a healthy club representation at the mall on all days is important. We'll be needing operators, as well as members to explain the operation and Amateur Radio in general.

An additional, behind the scenes, area where we'll need manpower is the set-up and taking-down of the antennas mostly a roof operation. Setting up will take place Sunday the 9th at 10:00 am and tear-down Sunday the 16th at mid-afternoon. The set-up and take down is as important as the operation itself so please let's have a hand here as well as during the week.

Equipment will be supplied mostly by members for the duration. Equipment will come and go each night of operation as there is no secure area for storage. As of this printing we are in need of coax, preferably 100+ foot lengths, if shorter we'll still use them. If you can make a donation for the duration we sure can use it.

The final meeting on the Mall will be Thursday night, December 6th. If you plan to participate either at the mall or at home please be there even if your name doesn't appear on the operating sked below; it's an important meeting as we'll be pulling together all loose ends.

OPERATING SCHEDULE:

Sunday (9): D. Kirschen, S. Nacey, N. Anderson, B. Hanlon, B. Downing, D. Paret, E. Thoresen, D. Chesley, J. McGrath.

Monday (10): D. Kirschen, D. Curry, E. Thoresen, N. Anderson, B. Hanlon, D. Chesley, J. Hatherley, J. McGrath.

Tuesday (11): E. Thoresen, B. Vasil, H. Chick, D. Chesley, J. McGrath, C. Eddy, D. Paret.

Wednesday (12): N. Anderson, D. Curry, E. Thoresen, M. Dinman, S. Dinman, D. Chesley, S. Nacey, J. Hatherley, D. Paret.

Thursday (13): D. Kirschen, B. Vasil, E. Thoresen, H. Chick, J. McGrath, C. Eddy, D. Paret, N. Anderson.

Friday (14): J. McGrath, D. Curry, N. Anderson, B. Hanlon, B. Downing, D. Paret, J. Hatherley, D. Chesley.

Saturday (15): D. Curry, B. Vasil, E. Thoresen, N. Anderson, B. Hanlon, M. Dinman, S. Dinman, B. Downing, D. Paret, S. Nacey, J. Hatherley, J. McGrath, D. Chesley, C. Eddy.

Sunday (16): D. Kirschen, B. Vasil, N. Anderson, E. Thoresen, B. Hanlon, D. Curry, S. Dinman, M. Dinman, B. Downing, D. Paret, S. Nacey, C. Eddy, J. McGrath, D. Chesley, J. Hatherley.

Don't forget, operators at home to take local traffic are as important as operators at the mall! □

AMSAT, the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, is responsible for our current fine satellite program. In addition to current satellites, in the early part of 1980 the first Phase III satellite will be launched, allowing hemisphere-wide communications for hours at a time. Membership in AMSAT includes the AMSAT magazine which will be renamed ORBIT and will contain items of interest in all aspects of space communications and VHF/UHF, plus the satellite orbital predictions formerly published separately. Dues will be rising to \$16 per year (\$200 life) in 1981, so now is the time to join. Contributions (tax-deductible) to support Phase III satellites are also encouraged.



AMSAT PHASE III
Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation
Box 27, Washington, D.C. 20044
202-488-8649

YES, I want to support AMSAT PHASE III OSCAR satellites. Enclosed is:

- ☐ \$_____ in sponsorship of _____ solar cells (a \$10 each)
☐ \$10 Annual membership ☐ \$100 Life membership
☐ Send information on sponsoring larger satellite components

Name _____ Call _____ AMSAT Member _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

The publisher has donated this space to AMSAT in support of AMSAT and the PHASE III program